

Activities of City and County Governments During the Year Just Ended

COUNTY HAS LARGE BALANCE

City and County Treasurer Ure Makes Statement of Funds.

TOTAL RECEIPTS NINE MILLION

Shows Where the Money Comes from, How Much is on Hand and Where It Has Been Spent During the Year.

The annual statement of W. G. Ure, treasurer of the county and city and the school and water districts, shows a balance of \$1,275,876, exclusive of the receipts and disbursements of the last two days of December.

The total receipts for all purposes for 1913 were \$12,554,548. The treasurer's statement of all funds in his keeping follows:

Balance November 30, 1912, \$1,437,876

RECEIPTS FOR 1913: City tax, \$1,275,876; County tax, \$1,275,876; State miscellaneous, \$1,275,876; Water district receipts, \$1,275,876.

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DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1913: City, \$1,275,876; County, \$1,275,876; State, \$1,275,876; Water district, \$1,275,876.

DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1912: City, \$1,275,876; County, \$1,275,876; State, \$1,275,876; Water district, \$1,275,876.

Cash on hand, \$1,275,876

Bank balances, cash and securities at close of business December 31, 1913, \$1,275,876.

Counties: Douglas, \$1,275,876; Cass, \$1,275,876; Nemaha, \$1,275,876; Pottawattamie, \$1,275,876.

Water districts: Omaha, \$1,275,876; Plattsmouth, \$1,275,876; Council Bluffs, \$1,275,876.

State: \$1,275,876

City of Omaha, \$1,275,876

City of Plattsmouth, \$1,275,876

City of Council Bluffs, \$1,275,876

City of Fremont, \$1,275,876

City of Papillion, \$1,275,876

City of Beatrice, \$1,275,876

City of Hastings, \$1,275,876

City of Kearney, \$1,275,876

City of Nelora, \$1,275,876

City of Ord, \$1,275,876

City of Seward, \$1,275,876

City of South Omaha, \$1,275,876

City of Union, \$1,275,876

City of West Omaha, \$1,275,876

City of York, \$1,275,876

City of Blair, \$1,275,876

City of Broken Bow, \$1,275,876

City of Columbus, \$1,275,876

City of Council Bluffs, \$1,275,876

City of Fremont, \$1,275,876

City of Hastings, \$1,275,876

City of Kearney, \$1,275,876

City of Nelora, \$1,275,876

City of Ord, \$1,275,876

Marriage is Four to One Shot When Taken with Divorce

One new divorce suit to every four marriages was the record of Douglas county last year, according to figures furnished by Harry Pearce, of the office of the clerk of the district court, and Clyde Southard, clerk of the county court. The ratio is practically the same as in 1912.

Twenty-five hundred and one marriage licenses were issued and 632 divorce suits were started in 1913. Both totals are the largest in the history of the county.

Figures on disposition of divorce cases for 1913 and 1912 are as follows:

Granted, Decided, Pending, Total. 1913: 200, 190, 190, 421. 1912: 200, 190, 190, 421.

The marriage license records for 1913 and 1912 by months follow:

Month: 1913, 1912. January: 1913, 1912. February: 1913, 1912. March: 1913, 1912. April: 1913, 1912. May: 1913, 1912. June: 1913, 1912. July: 1913, 1912. August: 1913, 1912. September: 1913, 1912. October: 1913, 1912. November: 1913, 1912. December: 1913, 1912.

The marriage license figures by years since 1900 are as follows:

Year: 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913.

Railroads Running Into Omaha Open Large Sums of Money

Last year was a busy one for the railroads centering in Omaha and millions of dollars were expended in double tracking old lines, extending new ones and improvements of a general character.

The Missouri Pacific expended more than \$2,000,000 in double tracking and rebuilding the Belt line and putting its Nebraska lines in the best possible condition. In addition, it equipped its trains into Omaha with new rolling stock, all of the best that could be purchased in the market.

The officials contemplate the erection of a mammoth freight house to replace the old one that has become too small for the business. Then, too, it has about completed the plans for extensive freight yards and terminals at Ralston, which with the new freight depot, will cost considerable over \$1,000,000.

While the Milwaukee has done nothing on the west side of the Missouri river, it has improved its Omaha-Chicago line, making it one of the best between the two cities. This has been done by the expenditure of more than \$1,000,000 in practically rebuilding the line. The entire distance has been double tracked with the heaviest of steel. New bridges have been constructed and the curves have been eliminated and the grade cut down.

During the year the Burlington expended more than \$1,000,000 in territory tributary to Omaha. Nearly \$300,000 was expended in replacing rails with the heaviest kind of steel. On the Powder river extension, \$1,000,000 was expended and the line opened to Casper. Work is still progressing east of there and before the end of the present year, Omaha will have another short line to the northwest coast country. The Ashland bridge, rebuilt at enormous cost, \$300,000, already having been expended. This bridge is of concrete and steel and is one that will last indefinitely.

Other bridges on the lines out of Omaha have been constructed at a cost of \$100,000, while industry and team tracks at numerous stations have been put in at an expense of \$25,000. Other improvements, such as coaling stations, tanks, pipe lines and block signals, costing \$100,000, or more, have been put in.

The Northwestern's expenditure during the year has been close to \$1,000,000, the biggest item being bridges and bridge betterments, costing \$300,000. All of the engines used west of the Missouri river have been converted into oil burners and this at a cost of \$50,000. Repairs to buildings have amounted to \$110,000, while new buildings have cost \$70,000. Industry tracks and track to industry, costing \$75,000, have been laid and \$100,000 expended in track betterments. Storage tanks for oil have cost \$20,000 and putting electric headlights on engines a like sum, while steel water tanks along the lines have cost \$15,000.

New Lines Added.

The Union Pacific, always adverse to giving figures relative to expenditures for improvements and betterments, has spent large sums during the last year. It has purchased a large number of new locomotives and cars of all kinds, erected numerous new depots, coaling stations and other buildings. This road during the year has completed the Gibson-Hastings cut-off, twenty-seven miles and the Gering-Halg branch and the Lion branch, eleven miles. It has laid twenty-five miles of new yard and side track and added sixty-three miles of double track, thus giving it a double track entirely across Nebraska and more than 750 miles of double track between Omaha and Ogden, 1,000 miles.

The block signal was extended eighty-eight miles and at North Platte and Evanson immense round houses were constructed. A fine depot was built at Hastings and numerous smaller ones at stations along the several lines. More than 2,000 freight cars were added to the equipment.

THEATERS PAY LARGE END OF OMAHA LICENSE MONEY

David Berkowitz, city license inspector, collected 1,597 licenses during the year, and the receipts of the department totaled \$13,908. The largest sum was received from theaters, whose license fees for the year, paid to Berkowitz, amounted to \$2,700.

BRIDGES COST LARGE SUM

County Surveyor Makes Report on Work Done in Douglas County.

TELLS OF ROAD WORK DONE

Cement Culverts Replace Small Bridges in Many Places—Says County Roads Are Kept in Good Condition.

According to a report prepared by County Surveyor Louis Adams Douglas county, during the year 1913, spent \$138,578.58 on its roads and bridges. This includes all steel, concrete and wood bridges, and all culverts. The rebuilding, paving and repairing of the paved roads, the opening of new roads, the cost of land condemned and the upkeep of all roads and bridges.

There have been a number of small steel and wooden bridges, and two Elk-horn river bridges rebuilt, that were washed away during the flood of the spring of 1911, and Douglas and Saunders counties are rebuilding the bridges over the east channel of the Platte river west of Valley, 900 feet of which was carried away and as much more damaged by the ice the same spring. Of this 600 feet is being replaced by steel and the balance repaired. It is the intention of the surveyor to fill most of this with sand and top it with earth.

The county has bought a steam roller and the necessary tools for repairing the macadam roads, of which the county has about thirty-nine miles, and has had a crew of men repairing the Military road which is about completed.

The county also has a crew putting in cement culverts in place of small bridges, which are cheaper than pipe, and it will only be a few years until the county will have done away with small bridges entirely.

The county has completed about 8,000 cubic yards of deep grading in different parts of the county, and has had a crew of men repairing the Military road which is about completed.

Each of the eleven road overseers has a small blade machine for fixing ruts and washouts; also there are a number of farmers who are dragging the roads around their farms at \$1 per mile, but this is in excess of what other counties are paying and will be cut down to about 75c.

The county roads have been kept in good condition the last year owing to the care and attention given by Mr. Harte, chairman of the road and bridge committee, who has given all his time to the work, going over the roads with the county engineer, and other members of the board. The county engineer and highway commissioner reports will be ready in a short time, showing the entire expenditure during the last year.

Boiler Inspector Issues Don'ts for the Coming Year

R. T. Wolfe, city boiler inspector, asks operators of steam boilers to observe the following "don'ts" in order to lend some to the smoke abatement campaign.

Don't put fire into a boiler furnace until you are assured that it has sufficient water in it.

Don't expect the plant to operate efficiently or smokelessly unless you have the necessary draught of air through grates, fire bed, stack connections and smokestack, to give you proper combustion of the fuel used.

Don't put coal enough into a furnace to last several hours when the fuel supply should be replenished at reasonable intervals, and then spread so as to cover the whole grate surface at a uniform depth, thus helping to abate smoke.

Don't criticize your neighbor for maintaining a nuisance, unless you own a back yard.

Don't wait for "Bill to do it first." If you want a nuisance abated, help your neighbors to abate it by lending your cooperation, remembering that with an ounce of reason you can do more with an intelligent person than with a pound of force.

Don't think the smoke nuisance cannot be abated, but try and think how to assist in the effort, and do it.

Don't forget that smoke abatement means a conservation of the fuel resources of the country.

Don't doubt that the campaign for the abatement of the smoke nuisance is on, for many of our best citizens who have already installed smoke prevention devices, or are installing them at present, can testify to the fact; and further, the progress will be more vigorous as time progresses and conditions permit.

Don't allow yourself to believe that you can get the same results from an inferior grade of fuel that can be obtained from the better grades, for fuel should be judged by its relative heat unit value, and not by its bulk.

Don't hesitate to call on the smoke inspector at any time you need his services, for he needs your co-operation and assistance in the effort to clean up Omaha and will appreciate the same.

RECORDS OF CASES BEFORE CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

Records of criminal business in the office of County Attorney Magney show 114 convictions and fifteen acquittals for 1913, as compared with 143 convictions and twelve acquittals in 1912. Figures in connection with major crimes are similar to those of last year. Forty-five cases were dismissed for want of a charge in 1913; in 1912 there were thirty-eight.

Following are the records for the two years:

CONVICTIONS. 1913, 1912. Breaking and entering, 40, 63. Grand larceny, 18, 15. Robbery, 16, 18. Forgery, 11, 30. Miscellaneous, 9, 30.

ACQUITTALS. 1913, 1912. Breaking and entering, 2, 2. Robbery, 2, 2. Grand larceny, 2, 2. Other crimes, 2, 2.

City Clerk Thomas J. Flynn's report for the year 1913 shows a total of 1,597 licenses issued and total receipts of \$13,908.58. Of the amount received the largest sum, \$2,700, came from theater licenses, and \$2,625 from the sale of dog tags.

Milk wagons, pawnbrokers and billiard houses were next in amounts paid for licenses. With the exception of the dog tags the majority of licenses sold were for milk wagons, stores and second-hand dealers.

During the year 624 ordinances were placed on first and second readings, and of this number 612 reached the third reading. Altogether 1,373 pages were added to the clerk's record.

City License Income Amounts to \$265,020

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At a meeting of the city commission an excise board three ungraded and seven licenses were issued and forty-five druggists' permits to sell intoxicating liquors for medicinal purposes were granted.

Bossie Advises the Inspectors of the Country Dairies

Claude F. Bossie, city dairy inspector, in his annual report to Health Commissioner R. W. Connel recommends immediate inspection of dairies in the farm districts adjacent to Omaha and the appointment of an inspector whose sole duty it shall be to inspect stores, pasteurizing stations and restaurants.

The total cost of maintaining this department during the year was \$27,019, including salaries, livery and transportation and supplies.

Concerning the inspections made by his department Bossie says:

Only one dairy failed to reach the required average standard for the year. Of these twenty-three reacted and were condemned and slaughtered. Of these twenty-three reacted and were condemned and slaughtered. Of these twenty-three reacted and were condemned and slaughtered.

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STREETS AND ALLEYS CLEAN

City Highway Maintained at Cost of \$126,000.

NEW PLAN OF FLUSHING USED

Destruction Caused by Tornado Estimated Extra Expense for Department Controlled by Commissioner Kugel.

Al C. Kugel, commissioner of street cleaning and maintenance, in spite of the havoc caused by the tornado, stretched his financial appropriation to the limit and covered the entire city. The report for the year shows a new scheme of street cleaning, and the fact that such curbing was used, work formerly performed by the department of public improvements. The report follows:

The different branches under which this department is governed were allowed the following appropriations for the year 1913:

Maintenance of pavement, \$45,000; Grading and opening up unpaved streets and alleys, \$20,000; Street cleaning, \$10,000; Weed cutting, \$1,000.

Total, \$126,000. These appropriations include all labor, fuel expense, material and new equipment.

A summary of the work accomplished during the year, under their classified heads, is herewith given:

Blocks graded streets and alleys, \$1,473, 212; Blocks of washouts filled, \$50, 526; Blocks cleaned by flushing, \$1,473, 212.

There are 137 miles of paved streets and 252 miles of unpaved streets and alleys to be maintained and kept in good repair. During the last year, there was approximately four miles of new streets opened up and one and one-half miles of alleys.

The fifty-one new culverts put in by this department and the 64 feet of curbing reset heretofore have been a part of the work of the department of public improvements. Previous to the last year, the expense of labor, upkeep and maintenance of the numerous waste paper boxes has been taken from the general fund. This year this department bore this expense.

During the year the city was divided into seven districts for flushing purposes. The majority of these were covered every week, the balance every two weeks.

The most important of the new equipment added to this department during the last year was the purchase of flushing wagons for the cleaning of paved streets. So satisfactory were the results gained by this investment that it is the intention during the coming year to make a further addition to this equipment.

The last year has been exceptionally hard on the finances of this department, the destruction caused by the tornado to the streets and pavements being extreme. The had to be thoroughly examined before any idea could be gained as to the nature of the loss caused thereby, not to speak of the extra expense in the hiring of special gangs of men to clear away the debris and the hiring of extra teams to have the same hauled away. Notwithstanding the assistance from the relief committee, the drain on this department's exchequer was severely felt.

Gas Commissioner Joseph P. Butler, in his annual statement to the mayor, says gas was served to consumers in a more uniform manner in 1913 than in any previous year. The pressure varied only 1.2. Butler says:

During the year 1913 this department has increased the flow of gas from three cubic feet per hour to three and one-half feet, adding 30 per cent to the efficiency of the service at increased cost of \$2 per lamp. We have also bought all supplies used in this department direct from the manufacturers, thereby saving from 20 to 30 per cent, instead of buying from middlemen, which was formerly the custom.

Following is the department's statistical report:

Tests for heat units, 304; tests for light units, 118; tests for sulphur, 12; tests for specific gravity, 15; tests for sulphide, 12; tests for water, 12; tests for gas, 12.

The new tariff act became effective October 3, 1913, which made a material reduction of duties along some lines and will likely result in the collection of less revenue, but the volume of business will be increased, and possibly for this reason, that in time the gross amount of revenue will also increase.

In addition to the regular customs business, Omaha was made an exchange office for the state of Nebraska for postal union parcel post packages from all over the world. The year closed December 31, 1913, with a total of 1,597 packages for the year, the report shows that there were handled 14,797 customs packages. This business has grown so large that a special cage is being installed in the first floor of the postoffice for the purpose of facilitating the handling of these packages, and this will be put in operation some time during January.

Gas Commissioner Says Lights Are in Better Condition

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